

Pathway to Potential

Introducing the Positive Elements Foundation

We invite you to step into a new friend's shoes...

*You are awakening to the warmth of the rising sun.
Reaching forward into a gifted day, you feel the glow
of knowing who you are and where you belong.
Gazing into the mirror, you see a person who has raised
several children; you have known hunger and poverty,
you have known powerlessness and choicelessness,
you have known what it is to live without a voice.*

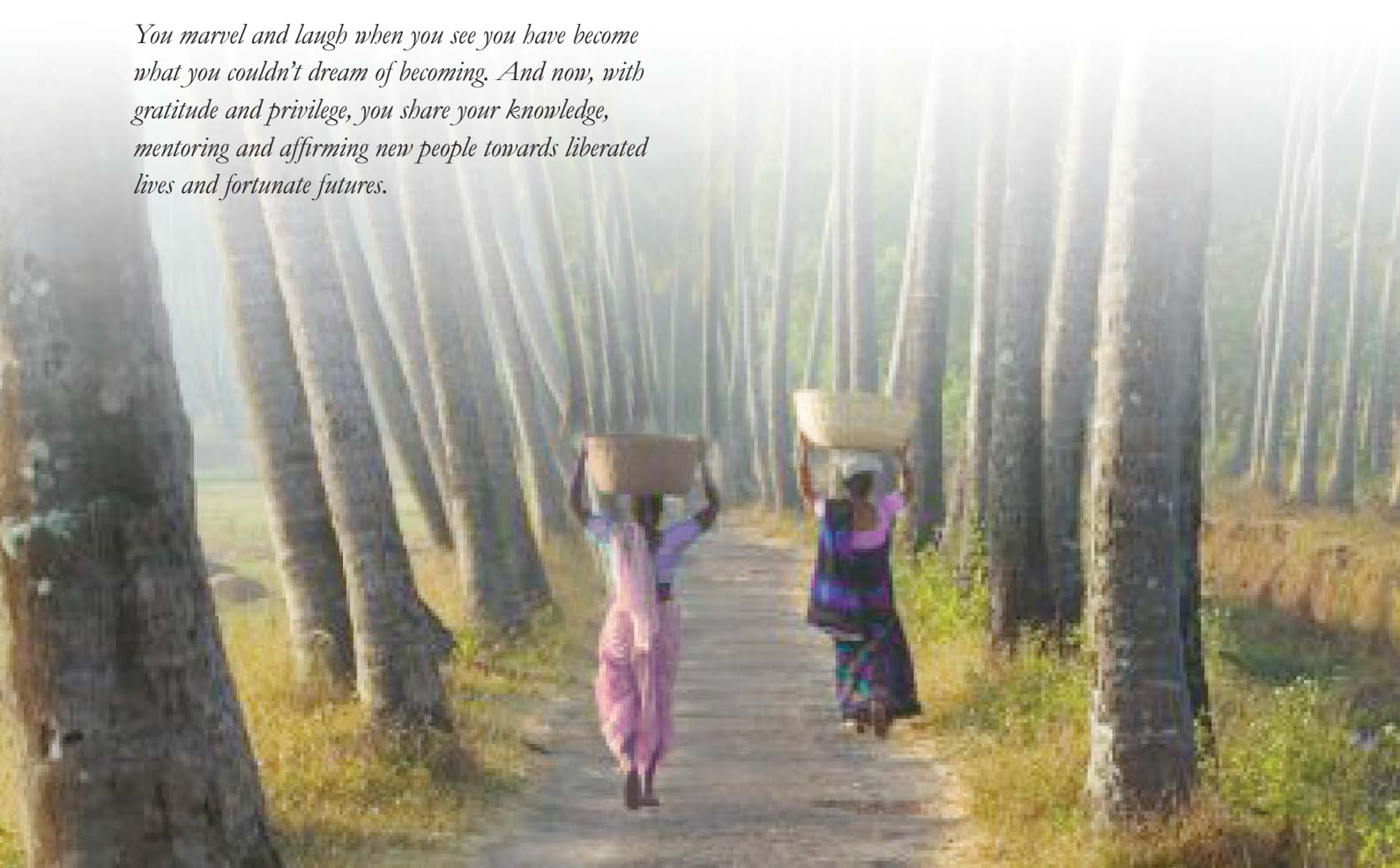
*Take a moment to look again and notice the soft,
contented smile that creeps across your face... because
today you work with joy, you play with creativity, you
meet challenges and learn how to navigate new ground.
You feel proud to know that through cooperation
many families are enjoying healthy food, warm shelter,
education and loving connection. You have learned how
to sustain a good livelihood and a good life, through
making beautiful products that honour the environment
and the sacredness of your ancient traditions.*

*You marvel and laugh when you see you have become
what you couldn't dream of becoming. And now, with
gratitude and privilege, you share your knowledge,
mentoring and affirming new people towards liberated
lives and fortunate futures.*

This is our dream - giving people the opportunity to transform their lives through sustainable cooperative enterprise.

Positive Elements Foundation encourages the potential of individuals and communities towards economic and environmental sustainability, cultural vibrancy and personal and social wellbeing. We advocate self-exploration, creativity and cooperation as a means of developing thriving people and partnerships. Our aim is to offer our knowledge and skills as a gift of enhancement, we do not intend to teach, more to call out the wisdom and skills of each person we walk beside.

Our commitment is to offer communities a pathway to their potential, stepping with care so as to leave positive footprints behind.



The cooperative is our pathway and these are our stepping stones:

COMING TOGETHER

- Forming a cooperative
- Learning how to create and work together

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Building self-esteem and awareness
- Accessing latent skills and creativity
- Encouraging environmental stewardship

ENTERPRISE

- Creating livelihoods through producing handmade treasures from natural and recycled resources
- Revitalising traditional craftsmanship to meet modern needs
- Upskilling and business training

AUTONOMY

- Supporting cooperatives towards self-sufficiency

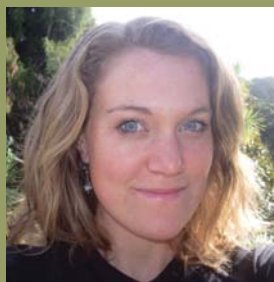
LINKING

- Facilitating sharing between cooperatives and exchange of knowledge and experience
- Cooperatives are strengthened through mutual support and resource sharing

> **Method** - a holistic training programme, tailored to the unique needs and culture of each community, and ongoing mentoring and facilitation services.

> **Outcome** - a network of thriving communities that continue to reach out to new cooperatives, and sustain the individuals and environment which they embrace.

> **Current status** - the foundation is still in conception phase as we continue to work alongside our partner organisations in India to promote community-made, sustainable gift products to selected national and international retail chains. All forms of support and contribution are welcome to assist us in realising this vision.



Social entrepreneur and visionary Katherine Burns (MPsy), is holding the vision for this organisation. Katherine is a community development professional with years of experience working with disadvantaged individuals in several countries. She brings strengths in project management, million-dollar fundraising, strategic planning and networking and has first hand experience building the capacity of Indian communities in rural Rajasthan. In recent years her work has included building the Fair

Trade movement in NZ galvanising local government, businesses, non-profits and individuals towards conscious buying. For the past two years she has worked alongside Theresa Grantham to develop Positive Elements Ltd, a procurement and marketing business bringing environmentally and socially sustainable gift products to the mainstream retail market.

Katherine is passionate about people remembering and living their potential and her work centres around inspiring and uplifting those who have not had opportunity to reveal their full capacity and creativity.